

# CHRISTIAN STATESMAN

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## When the Goose Hung High



ET those who would bring back beer and the legalized traffic in intoxicating liquors consider what follows.

Pursuant to a resolution passed by the United States Senate making serious charges against the United States Brewers' Association and allied interests and authorizing an investigation by its Committee on the Judiciary, Senators Overman, King, Wolcott, Nelson and Sterling were appointed a Sub-Committee to conduct the investigation. Witnesses and documents were summoned. The hearings, which began September 27, 1918, are reported in two volumes of 3,000 pages. This Committee reported their findings to the Senate as follows:

**With regard to the conduct and activities of the brewing and liquor interests, the Committee is of the opinion that the record clearly establishes the following facts:**

That they have furnished large sums of money for the purpose of secretly controlling newspapers and periodicals.

That they have undertaken to and have frequently succeeded in controlling primaries, elections, and political organizations.

That they have contributed enormous sums of money to political campaigns in violation of the Federal statutes and the statutes of several of the States.

That they have exacted pledges from candidates for public office prior to the election.

That for the purpose of influencing public opinion they have attempted and partly succeeded in subsidizing the public press.

That to suppress and coerce persons hos-

tile to and to compel support for them they have resorted to an extensive system of boycotting unfriendly American manufacturing and mercantile concerns.

That they have created their own political organization in many States and in smaller political units for the purpose of carrying into effect their own political will and have financed the same with large contributions and assessments.

That with a view of using it for their own political purposes they contributed large sums of money to the German-American Alliance, many of the membership of which were disloyal and unpatriotic.

That they organized clubs, leagues, and corporations of various kinds for the purpose of secretly carrying on their political activities without having their interest known to the public.

That they improperly treated the funds expended for political purposes as a proper expenditure of their business and consequently failed to return the same for taxation under the revenue laws of the United States.

That they undertook through a cunningly conceived plan of advertising and subsidization to control and dominate the foreign language press of the United States.

That they have subsidized authors of recognized standing in literary circles to write articles of their selection for many standard periodicals.

That for many years a working agreement existed between the brewing and distilling interests of the country by the terms of which the brewing interests contributed two-thirds and the distilling interests one-third of the political expenditures made by the joint interests.

IN SOCIAL ROOM  
OF  
MONTGOMERY HALL

# The Myth of Beer Prosperity

William Wilson McKinney, A. M.

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Ambridge, Pa.

**B**EEER Promotes Prosperity! Does that seem a strange slogan? A few years bring unexpected changes. Go back no farther than the last presidential campaign. Recall Al Smith's futile effort to roll into the White House upon a keg of beer. Did he give the slightest hint that beer and prosperity were closely entwined? No, not a word. Nor did any of the other advocates of booze suggest it.

We heard pathetic pleas that the working man had been robbed of his birthright in not being permitted to blow the froth from a glass of life sustaining beer, in being compelled to buy automobiles, radios and silk stockings instead of beer. We were reminded constantly of the injustice of a law that allowed rich men to indulge in the fruitage of a well-stocked cellar, but compelled the working man to patronize the unscrupulous bootlegger. We were told that gangs and racketeers were the inevitable by-products of the most lucrative business in the world—the business of supplying booze to a thirsty public that was drinking more than ever before. Thus spoke the scoffers in derision of the noble experiment.

Temperance people had one reply which they considered unanswerable: the marvelous era of economic prosperity. The workman was free from the temptation of the corner saloon. He had money to spend on luxuries. He was buying insurance, building and loan stock, government bonds instead of beer. Prosperity is the glorious fruitage of the 18th amendment, we delighted to repeat with boasting emphasis.

## Capitalizing Adversity

But then something happened. This new era of prosperity ended suddenly. Stocks fell with heart-breaking rapidity. Factories closed. Banks went into the hands of receivers. Farmers and merchants had their goods on hands. Willing customers had no money to spend. The worst depression in our national history spragged the wheels of industry. Gone was all that prosperity that many of us thought was the joyous heritage of a sober nation.

Well, the wets haven't been a bit slow in perceiving our embarrassed

discomfiture. They have been quick to take advantage of a changed economic situation. They are now using against us the very arguments we phrased so dogmatically. (They are hurling back at us the claims we formerly presented. They are telling us we killed the goose that laid the golden egg. With dimly disguised glee they smile very indulgently.)

And let us be good sports in this matter. Let us not be unduly irritated now that our most prized argument is in the enemies' hands. We have lost the flip of the economic coin. The coin now reads tails instead of heads. Let us smile as graciously as we can. Perhaps we were foolish in laying so much emphasis on the economic side of prohibition during the days of prosperity. We should have shown greater wisdom in the choice of our arguments. There were other and more effective defenses of prohibition just as there are today.

Yes, the wets have been quick to capitalize the changed economic situation. With reckless abandon they are casting aside all other arguments for the repeal of the 18th amendment and are centering their pleas entirely on the economic value of beer. We hear almost nothing of the old cry for personal liberty. Statements about the increased drinking under prohibition are laid aside. The death rate from poisoned liquor is no longer blazoned forth by a wet press. With surprising unanimity the thirsty ones have taken up the chorus, "Beer will bring back prosperity." Beer is the one thing that is needed to turn the wheels of industry and rescue the bankrupt farmer!

With amused tolerance we must admire the forensic skill of the anti-prohibition group in abandoning temporarily all other arguments and concentrating on the unified slogan "We want beer and prosperity." There is wisdom in thus appealing to the sympathetic and unreasoned judgment of a nation that is seeking a way out of our economic stagnation. Everybody wants prosperity. Everybody is seeking a solution of our present economic difficulty. Almost any plan is eagerly welcomed. The wets know that and seek to capitalize the universal instincts of

compassion and sympathy.

## Some Familiar Voices

Moreover, they have chosen a slogan that is crowned with altruistic respectability. Men of the most diverse outlooks can repeat that slogan and at the same time pose as unselfish philanthropists. Father Coughlin, the radio priest at Detroit, views through tear-dimmed eyes the sad plight of the middle west farmer and pleads for beer as the Divine method of absorbing the surplus grain products. The American Legion interrupts the President of the United States with their sympathetic moan "we want beer." Of course, they do not want it for themselves personally. They are merely interested in launching an offensive against the economic tyrant.

President Green of the Federation of Labor beholds millions of unemployed. Thinking of their hungry wives and children, he demands that the breweries be opened and the problem of the unemployed thus solved. Modestly that famous brewer, Busch, replies that nothing would contribute more to relieve the unemployment situation than to again make it possible for the American nation to enjoy 4% beer. The multimillionaire, Raskob, altruistically considers the needs of millions of hungry voters. He can think of no more effective vote-getting solution of our economic puzzle. He goes Marie Antoinette one better and replies to the people's cry for bread—"Give them beer."

Politicians, worried by the enlarging deficit in the United States' treasury and fearing to impose new taxes on a tax-weary constituency, are charmed by the mirage of millions of dollars coming to the government through legalizing beer. They would balance the budget by restoring a tax on beer and giving the brewers the governmental benediction. Our drug store and pool room operators repeat the ready made slogan and unthinkingly quote their favorite wet newspaper. And so the happy unified chorus of befuddled gents resounds throughout the land. The road to prosperity, we are told, is lined with overflowing beer mugs.

## An Economic Savior

The lowly stench raising and

stomach expanding beer of a decade ago is now hailed as our economic savior, the overlooked panacea for all industrial ills. We wait with bated breath for the hilarious days of Congress when beer's frothiest prophets will hail the coming of a 4% millenium. Never again need beer sink into ignoble disrepute after Congressman Bingham bellows for beer. Beer and prosperity—a happily wedded pair that even death cannot part!

Now, if Americans did not have a sense of humor they might be impressed by this anvil chorus clanging the melody of beer. The chorus might woo them into a state of forgetfulness were it not for good old fashioned American commonsense. We Americans are prone to be a little suspicious of widely heralded panaceas. Too fluent salesmanship often defeats its own purposes. We begin to wonder why the leading economists did not discover the solution which the brewers are advocating.

We are surprised that Germany, the great beer drinking nation, hasn't found economic salvation in beer. An additional quart a day surely ought to keep international creditors away. We are amazed to discover that unemployment in Great Britain is tragic as compared with our own situation. More beer—more jobs; that ought to be axiomatic in England.

### Yes, We Wonder

We wonder why the American farmers themselves are not pleading for beer. The senators from the middle west are strangely silent with so much at stake. They certainly can howl vociferously for other forms of farm relief. Perhaps they are too modest or they may fear to risk the temptations of sudden wealth!

Why haven't the great industrial leaders advocated beer as a new dynamo to turn the wheels of industry and make necessary more employees? Why do business men like Scott, president of the Reo Motor Car Company, declare that "re-legalizing 4% beer would cost the jobs of two men for every person employed by the brewing trade?"

We wonder why Salvation Army workers and social service experts like Jane Addams haven't recognized the poverty destroying value of beer. These real friends of the underprivileged are not heard in the chorus which includes such philanthropic geniuses like Hearst and the Du Ponts. Yes, these

strange silences baffle us. We listen in vain for the sweet melody of their voices calling for beer. The chorus singing the economic virtues of beer would be more impressive if the personnel of the chorus were changed completely. Until we hear the voices of those whom the intelligent people of America trust and admire, the discords of the beer anthem will grate on our nerves or impress us as being ludicrous.

Personally, I find it difficult to conceal my pleasure that the wets have united in their plea for beer as an economic panacea and have laid aside their other time-worn arguments. It is the easiest of all arguments to refute. It leads us away from opinions into the realm of governmental statistics. It enables us to substitute facts for fancies. And heated rhetoric can never resist cold facts. Let us analyze in some detail the possible economic gains of beer. Let us look at the question from the economic aspect entirely. I think you will agree with me that the return of beer will intensify rather than relieve our present industrial depression.

### Feeding Cows vs. Making Drunkards

We are unselfish. So our minds turn first to the plight of the farmer. Brewer Busch admits sadly that prohibition has destroyed farm prosperity and that at least eighty million bushels of grain would be absorbed if beer was restored. We might be lead to believe from that statement that prohibition does prohibit and that all this talk about more beer being manufactured in homes than was formerly made by the brewers is all bunk. We thank Mr. Busch for that unwitting testimony to prohibition's effectiveness. We have no desire to contest Brewer Busch's statement that the closing of the breweries did destroy one phase of the farmer's grain market. BUT that market at best was relatively small.

Government statistics are available showing the amount of grain consumed by the brewers in pre-Volstead days. In the wettest year only about 1% of the farmers' products went into the manufacture of all varieties of intoxicating beverages. Yes, only 1% of wheat and corn, a larger percentage of barley, of course, but that is only a small agricultural product. To offset that loss of one per cent, new markets for dairy products were opened up by prohibition.

Last October the National

Grange published the results of a study of the increased per capita consumption of dairy products. These conclusions are interesting. To furnish that increased milk supply those overworked cows ate "approximately three times as much grain as was used all told in the manufacture of fermented liquors in 1917." No wonder the farmer is not clamoring for beer. The National Grange has the business sense to protect a market that absorbs three times as much grain as the brewers and distillers formerly did. As a measure for farm relief the restoration of beer would be a financial flop.

### A Few Jobs, But—

We leave the farmer. We turn our gaze sympathetically to the thousands upon thousands, yes, the millions of unemployed. Would the restoration of beer provide jobs for any considerable number of these victims of our faulty system of industry? The head of the Federation of Labor permits his sympathies to overpower his judgment and promises employment for at least one million in a revived beer industry. Busch shows his heart is in the right place by adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  million to that generous estimate. Other enthusiasts set their hopes as high as  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions. For sheer optimism in these days of depression it is hard to beat the wet crowd.

Upon what do these unselfish pleaders for beer base their calculations? Nothing more substantial than their dreams and the assumed ignorance of their audience. Sad to say the statistics of the United States Labor Bureau prick the expanding beer balloon.

It may surprise you to know that the total number of workers, both wage earners and salaried men, employed in the manufacture of both beer and whiskey was only 75,000. In 1919, the last year of the beer business, the total was only 42,000. In addition, the wets assure us that 18,000 were employed in the allied industries manufacturing bottles, barrels, labels, etc. These men haven't lost their jobs since prohibition has vastly stimulated the bottle making industry due to the increased use of soft drinks and milk.

But we must not forget the poor saloon keepers and bartenders, 169,000 of them, according to government census. They lost their jobs. And what is worse, nobody seems to have any sympathy for

(Continued on page 8, col. 1)

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**Let the Senate Ratify**

Especially on account of the World Disarmament Conference should the United States Senate ratify immediately the Protocol of the World Court and make the United States a member nation of the Court. This will greatly strengthen the Court and strengthening this agency for the peaceable settlement of international disputes will greatly aid the Disarmament Conference in its efforts to reduce national armaments.

Every organized body in the United States which has been canvassed so far in regard to this matter has favored it. Recently 810 university and college heads voted for it. The lawyers approached individually voted 1400 to 57 in favor of it. The American Bar Association and the American Federation of Labor, the Woman's Clubs, the National Education Association and the churches have spoken for it almost unanimously.

Write your two senators urging immediate ratification of the Protocol.

**Write the President**

Our readers understand and appreciate, we assume, the tremendous importance of the World Disarmament Conference convening at Geneva, February 2nd. What can they do to prevent its failure and help it to succeed? Pray for it? Yes. Ask that its sessions be opened with prayer? Yes. Let not the mistake be made at this Conference that was made at Versailles where no voice of prayer was lifted to the God of nations. Ask that the Conference daily seek the help of the God of Peace and of the Prince of Peace. Also write our President that you will support him to the limit in standing for drastic reduc-

tion of armaments. Doubtless he will go as far as he can in this direction.

How far he can go will depend largely on how far public opinion will support him. That depends on you. Private citizens who are for peace must let their wishes be known to the powers that be. You have responsibility. Whether the Conference succeeds or fails will depend upon what you do and other millions like you who believe in peace.

Write the President. Say to him such things as these. Let the United States take the leadership in the Conference which she can and ought to do. Let her stand unflinchingly for drastic reduction of all kinds of armaments. Let her urge that the financial distress of the nations demands drastic reduction. Let her use to the full the advantage of the enormous war debts the European nations owe her. If they will continue to spend enormous sums for armaments they must pay every cent they owe us. But if they will be sensible and agree to drastic reduction, the United States can well afford to deal leniently with them.

Were an agreement to be made reducing national armaments by one-third, the United States would thereby save \$250,000,000 per year which is more than the amount she would receive annually in war debts from all the nations were they to be paid in full.

Remember you count. Write.

**Wet Drive in Congress**

The Wets are now concentrating on Congress. We have 100 wet bills introduced since the present session opened—bills to legalize beer of an alcoholic content of from 2.75% to 4%, and beer and wine; to repeal the Volstead Act in its entirety; to repeal the 18th Amendment or to amend it in such a way as to nullify it; to amend the method of amending the Constitution in such a way that the wet protagonists think will make it easier to bring liquor back; bills for a national referendum on the repeal of the 18th Amendment. These bills would deal with the liquor traffic in as many different ways as Heinz has varieties of pickles.

What is the meaning of this? The Wets scarcely hope to pass any of these bills but they are determined to show a wet gain in Congress which they can herald to

the world and use as leverage for wet planks in the national political platforms and the election of a wet president. It is of first importance to meet this drive immediately and effectively. They seem to be concentrating on the bills to legalize beer, hearings on these bills being now in progress, and the bills for resubmission of the Amendment.

For this reason we give large space in this issue to the discussion of the beer question—an extended article refuting the argument that the restoration of beer will bring prosperity and on other articles dealing with other aspects of the subject.

Dry congressmen are being pressed to join the Wets in voting for resubmission of the 18th Amendment or for a national referendum on its resubmission, on the ground that it is only fair to let the people decide this question and that such a vote is not a wet but a neutral vote.

All these measures have been introduced by those favoring the wet cause. Dry congressmen should stand solidly against all of them but to do this they need and should have the support of their dry constituency. They should not be expected to bear the brunt of this drive without their support. You owe it to your congressman and senators, if you are dry, to let them know that you stand solidly back of them in voting against all of these wet measures.

Write them today.

**Wisconsin Referendum**

Tuesday, April 5th, Wisconsin electors will vote on whether their Sabbath law should be repealed.

Wisconsin has an excellent Sabbath law. That it has been able to maintain it in the face of strong opposition has been due largely to the efficient labors of Rev. S. Patterson Todd, for many years Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance of that state. He led the fight which in twelve years resulted in the defeat of twelve bills to weaken or destroy the Sabbath law of the state. Two years ago he gave up the work. When a repeal bill was introduced into the Legislature last spring he was called back and took charge of the fight which resulted in its defeat by a vote of 22 to 11 in the Senate.

Following this defeat Assemblyman Grosbschmidt, the author of the repeal bill, introduced a joint resolution for a referendum on the

# Shall We Bring Back Beer?

**"B**RING back beer. It is a harmless temperance drink. The workingman wants it and should have his beer when the rich man can get any kind of liquor he wants. It will provide work for the unemployed, relieve the burden of taxation and restore prosperity." This cry is resounding through the land.

Mr. Busch, former beer baron, urges its relegalization. The American Federation of Labor is backing the restoration movement. The Wet press is urging it as a panacea for our ills. The drive for its re-establishment is on in Congress. The following bills have been introduced into Congress since it convened, December 7, 1931:

## Bills to Legalize Beer

2.75% to 4% alcoholic content by volume .....	8
2.75% to 4% by weight (3.45% to 5% by volume) .....	7
4% beer and 10% wine by volume .....	7
3% beer and 12% wine by weight (3.75% and 15% by volume) .....	1
Non-intoxicating beverages (no percentage named) .....	2
To permit fermented and prohibit distilled liquors .....	1
To permit states to set their own standard of intoxicating	

repeal of the Sabbath law of the state in its entirety as follows:

"Whereas, the repeal of the 'Sunday Blue Law' has several times in recent years come before the Legislature, and there has always been dispute as to the wishes of the people with respect to this law; and

Whereas, there is only one method to really settle this question; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, that there be submitted to the qualified electors of this state, at the election to be held on the first Tuesday in April, 1932, the following question: 'Shall sections 351:46 to 351:49 of the Wisconsin statutes, popularly known as the 'Sunday Blue Law,' be repealed?'

This resolution passed both House and Senate. If the majority vote in the referendum is for repeal, the Legislature will doubtless repeal the Sabbath law and busi-

liquors .....	3
To make law inoperative in states not appropriating enforcement funds .....	1
To repeal Volstead Act (which would legalize beer of all percentages) .....	12
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>42</b>

## Beer in Pre-Prohibition Days

Government reports show the following amount of intoxicating liquors consumed in the last year before prohibition:

	Gallons
Beer .....	2,000,000,000
Wine .....	42,000,000
Distilled Liquors .....	170,000,000
Restore beer and you bring back nine-tenths of the liquor traffic of the old saloon days.	

## Beer and Alcohol

The standard beer glass in general use holds 12 ounces; the standard whiskey glass one ounce. A twelve ounce glass of 4% beer contains 48/100 ounce of alcohol. A one ounce glass of whiskey (50% alcohol) contains 50/100 ounce of alcohol. The man who drinks a stein of 4% beer consumes practically the same amount of alcohol as the man who drinks a glass of whiskey of 50% alcoholic content. Two glasses of 2.75% beer by volume (the weakest named in any

beer bill) contain more alcohol than one glass of whiskey.

**Alcohol Is a Poison**—Science has so demonstrated. The man who drinks liquors, whether in the form of beer, wine or whiskey takes this alcohol poison into his system. There is a much lower percentage of this poison in beer than in whiskey but the beer drinker takes much larger quantities of beer than the whiskey drinker takes of this high powered liquor.

## Beer and Food

The grains used in making beer do contain a high percentage of food substances, but in the fermentation process, all but a small percentage of these food substances are decomposed and there is left in its place the poison, ethyl alcohol. The small amount of food substance in beer (less than 5%) is more than counter balanced by the poison alcohol. Bread contains 60% food substance, 38½% water and no poison. Beer contains less than 5% food substance over 90% water and about 4% alcoholic poison.

## Beer and Health

When beer is used regularly even in quantities that do not intoxicate, the organs and tissues of the body become poisoned with alcohol. Many diseases result from beer drinking.

"There is no longer room for doubt in reference to the toxic (poison) effect of alcohol beverages as weak as 2.75% by weight," says Dr. Walter R. Miles of Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory, Boston, as a result of all his experiments with this weak alcoholic beverage.

## Beer and Drunkenness

The average person can get "drunk" on beer. Long before there were any distilled liquors, there was much drunkenness in the world caused by beer and other fermented liquor. Much of the drunkenness in the United States in saloon days resulted from beer drinking. During the World War the British Board of Liquor Control made inquiries concerning the kind of liquor used by 566 persons arrested for drunkenness in London. It was found 40% became drunk on beer or stout.

At the International Congress Against Alcoholism in Vienna, Dr.

nessmen and laborers will be deprived of their right of Sabbath rest and worshippers of that release from toil which is essential to public worship.

Shall Wisconsin maintain its Sabbath law or shall it soon be classed with the District of Columbia and California which have no Sabbath laws? Let the Christian churches and citizens of Wisconsin arise and in the Name of the Lord of the Sabbath defend their Sabbath law. Let the leaders of the Protestant churches of the United States go to their help. We venture that the movie interests and the Seventh Day Adventists of the entire country will throw their resources into Wisconsin to help rid the state of its "Sunday Blue Law."

Mr. Todd has been asked to take charge of the fight against repeal. We hope he does so and that the churches of Wisconsin and America give that moral and financial support that will bring victory.

Weleminsky reported an investigation of 1,526 alcoholics of which 825 had drunk beer only.

### Beer and the 18th Amendment

The 18th Amendment prohibits the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors. Beer, at least of the usual strength of 3½% to 4% or more by volume (most of the beer bills before Congress are of this percentage) is intoxicating. The intention of all such bills is to legalize what the Constitution forbids. No Congressman can introduce or support any bill to permit what the Constitution forbids without violating his oath to support the Constitution of the U. S.

Were bills to legalize beer not intoxicating in fact to become law, it would result in an enormous bootleg trade in higher powered beer with the "kick" which the drinker demands. A near beer law is practically unenforceable, as you cannot have a chemist with every beer barrel to see that the beer is light.

### Beer and Prosperity

Restore beer and it will provide work—some say for a million men. But government records show that in the manufacture of beer there were never more than 75,000 employed—only 1% of 7,500,000, the number now unemployed.

But whatever number of men the beer industry would employ, it would throw out of employment at least twice that number in other industries. Those who would buy the beer these brewery workmen produce—largely the workingmen—are now spending all their money for groceries, clothing, fuel, automobiles, radios, movies, etc. Whatever money they would spend for beer they would spend this much less for other things. This would lessen the demand for these things and less workers would be required to produce them and government statistics show that at least twice as many men are employed in other industries, in proportion to the capital invested, as in the brewing industry.

But they say, the restoration of beer would increase the market for farm products. When the liquor business was at high peak government statistics show that only 1% of farm products went into the production of all kinds of intoxicating liquors; also that since prohibition, there has been an increase of 242.7 pounds per capita in the consumption of dairy products. It requires 3,000,000 extra cows to produce this increase. The food

stuffs required to feed these cows alone is three times the amount of grains used in making all kinds of liquor in the good old days. "Agriculture would sustain a tremendous loss if the consumption of dairy products should fall to the saloon days level because of the resumption of brewing," says the National Grange.

### Beer and Taxes

"Bring back beer, levy a government tax on it and it will solve the taxation problem." Mr. Busch estimates it will bring \$400,000,000 into the national treasury. Government statistics show that it never brought more than \$126,000,000 in any year.

But who is going to pay this beer tax? Not the brewers but those who drink the beer—the working people of America. To put \$400,000,000 beer tax into the treasury, the workingmen would have to pay \$2,000,000,000 or more into the pockets of the brewers.

### Beer and Political Corruption

The brewers were the greatest corruptors of politics in pre-prohibition days. See page one for the findings of the Committee on Judiciary of the United States Senate following an investigation of the political activities of the United States Brewer's Association and allied interests. For contributing to political campaigns in violation of the election laws 37 breweries in the Pittsburgh district were indicted by the Federal Grand Jury in 1916, plead guilty and were fined \$68,800.

### Why Then Bring Back Beer?

(With more than forty beer bills before Congress and bearings on some of them in progress, we are publishing this article in leaflet form to make it available for wide distribution. Secure a supply for your church or group or for house to house distribution. At the rate of \$1.00 for 100 copies. National Reform Association, 209 Ninth St., Pittsburgh, Pa.)

### Mrs. Shepard's Letter

Again, from lovely California, I send my message to the friends of our Association, and a prayer is offered for the year 1932—that it may be a prosperous and successful one for the great program that we are attempting through Divine help to bring to fruition.

I am learning day by day that it pays to advertise, and no one knows this better than the head of

the Mormon church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints). In the first place, they have carried on for over a year a musical program of the pipe organ and Mormon choir in the old Mormon Tabernacle in Salt-Lake City. This has been given over a network of the National Broadcasting Company. Thousands, perhaps millions, have heard this program and many friends have been won to a belief that "the Mormon church is not so bad after all, when they put on such a glorious musical program." That program has been given for that one purpose—to win favorable comment; and the unthinking and unreasoning listener has failed to delve into the unrighteous and unchristian teachings of this denomination. Well, that advertising has done its most clever and subtle work and the Mormon Head is willing to do a little more in advertising.

At present, "The Los Angeles Record" is running daily a two column story which is headed in this way, "When the Mormons Marched"—a true story of American courage.

The story is written, probably, by one of their own members and carries only praise and commendation for these early pioneers in their western trek. The Mormon church claims 25,000 members in Los Angeles, and no doubt the followers and leaders in this city have been able to bring enough pressure upon this paper to have this story featured. It has already been running since the New Year.

The Mormon church has recently sustained a great loss in the death of their temporal advisor and second counselor to their President, Heber J. Grant, in the person of the well-known financier, Charles W. Nibley. Mr. Nibley has always been a power in looking after the financial investments of the Mormon church. However, during the present depression his fortune was swept away and, perhaps, worry about his affairs may have hastened his death.

A Mormon paper recounting the passing of this pioneer said, President Nibley has had a large family, having nine sons and eight daughters. At his bedside when death came were his two wives, Mrs. Ellen Ricks Nibley of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Julia Budge Nibley of Salt Lake City. Did I hear some one say, "But the Mormons no longer practice polygamy." Well, the custom may be dying out, but it has a long dying time! The Mor-

mon church in 1890 brought out the Manifesto, which provided for the abandonment of this custom, and it is now 1932. I think forty-two years for its death is a pretty long period.

At the Christmas season recently, the Mormon church observed, not only the birthday of our Jesus, but also the birthday (December 23rd) of the Prophet Joseph Smith, whom they call the "Prophet Martyr" of the nineteenth century. To them, Joseph Smith, was a man chosen of God, out of the teeming millions of the children of men, to stand at the head of a new Gospel dispensation in these latter days. The Mormon Saint (?), after long years of apostasy and darkness, believes that Joseph was chosen by God, the Father, and His son Jesus Christ to open up this new dispensation; that it was a great honor to be chosen as God's mouthpiece to the world in the opening up again of communication between heaven and earth, and the Mormon church considers it an honor to observe the anniversary of the day on which was born God's latter-day prophet of the world!

They say that, like Jesus, Joseph (the Prophet) was scorned and opposed by many who professed to be zealous for the word and cause of God, and like Jesus, he sealed his testimony with his blood. Consequently, they believe that the entire Christian world, who observe the birth of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, and who must go back nineteen centuries for a message from their Divine Master, should accept the Gospel of this new dispensation and be the possessors of many glorious revelations given by him in our own day.

God is indeed blessing me in my work in Los Angeles. Recently I spent a whole day with the prisoners in the County Jail, which is considered the most human and comfortable jail in our country. The jail occupies the five top stories of the lovely new "Hall of Justice". There is sunshine and air and human kindness to the unfortunate in this place. I was particularly interested in a young girl who had committed perjury by telling officers that a neighbor man was at her home the night he robbed a grocery to feed his starving children. Her sister in the East, a dear friend of mine, had asked for my help. This poor girl is in jail for one year for this perjury, while a very prominent lawyer, recently was acquitted, who admitted he had shot two promi-

nent men in this city. Is this justice?

Our great Victory Day for prohibition is being celebrated by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union throughout California this month, and I am the luncheon speaker at the luncheon of the San Diego County Woman's Christian Temperance Union. May we all be alert this year to the needs of the cause of holding fast our prohibition laws. Let us pray more and give more. The enemy can raise money, but they have not the blessed power of prayer.

## Sabbath Manual

Reference has been made heretofore in The Christian Statesman to "The Manual on the Christian Sabbath" now in preparation which The National Reform Association will soon publish. It will deal with the Sabbath situation in the United States; the Sabbath laws of the states; court decisions and opinions respecting them; the basis of these laws; the organized forces at work breaking down these laws and the sacredness of the day; the Church's responsibility to maintain the Sabbath and how she can meet it; the Sabbath and democracy; the Sabbath in our Twentieth Century life; Jesus and the Sabbath and so forth.

It will be a book of not more than 250 pages, compact with facts and arguments designed to meet the needs of those who wish to discuss this subject from pulpit and platform or who wish to study the Sabbath situation in America individually or in classes.

No manual of this character has been published within the last 25 years. It should be of special value where there are on, or impending, contests over state Sabbath laws, local contests over an open or closed Sabbath.

The writer of the Manual is Dr. R. H. Martin, President of The National Reform Association, who for four years was Director of the Department of Sabbath Observance of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. under its Board of Christian Education. Dr. Martin gave these four years to investigating the Sabbath laws and Sabbath situation, writing and speaking on this subject and appearing before Legislative Committees of Congress in the interest of legislation to protect the Lord's Day. It is the expectation that it will be in the printer's hands within two months.

## Prohibition Defeated in Finland

A recent edition of the daily press carried the stories of Marshal Chang's evacuation of Manchuria and Finland's repudiation of Prohibition in a referendum vote. The vote stood, for prohibition 206,000, for repeal of prohibition 520,000, for modification 10,300. This is a vote of 2½ to 1. The vote for modification is negligible. The change of 160,000 votes would have altered the results. It is quite conceivable to any one who lived and worked through our Local Option days that such a majority can be reversed in a few months. Especially in view of the fact, scarcely mentioned in the wet press, that an unprecedented snowfall prevented the polling of the rural vote to any adequate extent.

There is far more similarity in these two events than mere coincidence in time. Both were foreign invasions and in both the citizens had to face a foe which proclaimed that it was invading for the good of the conquered country. In neither case is the matter settled finally. It is quite certain that China will not rest under this injustice and it is equally certain that the Christian Conscience of Finland will not finally surrender to the liquor forces of Europe.

Poor Finland! She has our sympathy as much as does China. Gassed by the liquor propaganda by which we are suffering, worn out by the smuggling activities of her neighbors and snowed under on election day, she has for the time being been conquered.

We predict however that when her conscience regains its fighting vigor, she will not again try to establish that type of prohibition which admits beer. This fault in her law left her with a fatal weakness. That is why the wet forces are working so strenuously in the United States for the relegalizing of beer. They, and every one, know that whiskey, wine and rum cannot long be kept from a people whose alcoholic appetite is kept alive with beer.

The same forces; the wine growing nations of Europe, the brewers of Germany and Scandinavia, the distillers of Canada and Great Britain, that bluffed Iceland and wore out Norway and Sweden and now have defeated Finland in her efforts to be rid of alcoholism are the back bone of the war against prohibition in the United States. In this campaign doubtless they will be

considerably heartened by their victory, but let them take cognizance of three different factors in this warfare. The first is the difference in the protestant conscience here and in Europe. The second is the length of our history in this war and the third is the difference in the form of government in the United States. Policies cannot be so easily changed under our constitution. Then it might be added the wet majorities of our foreign industrial cities cannot be massed against the dry majority of the nation as easily as they were in Finland. It may take us longer to step forward but when we do we cannot be so suddenly pushed back by any single year's activities.

## The Myth of Beer Prosperity

(Continued from page 2)

them. The wets themselves, including their patron saint—Rascob, declare that the saloon must not return. Even a revived beer industry offers no hope to these rotund, genial, barroom salesmen. They will have to continue as bootleggers or politicians. That leaves only 75,000 whom the breweries could employ; 75,000—not a million and a half; 75,000 just 1% of our total unemployment. As a measure of relief for the unemployed, beer is merely an effervescent dream.

### Bread, Not Beer!

Perhaps we haven't given full credit to beer's possible contribution to prosperity. These 75,000 employees will have money to spend. Their pay checks will revive business and stimulate other lines of unemployment, we are told. Perhaps! How much did these men earn in 1914, beer's big year before the war and prohibition? The government answers \$80,000,000—a considerable sum. But then remember that the wholesale price of the brewer's product that same year was \$442,000,000. In other words beer paid out in wages eighty millions and took in nearly a half billion dollars in revenue.

Now who is to pay that half billion dollars? Certainly not the rich men. They have their bootleggers and will continue to patronize them. Beer never was the beverage of social aristocracy. It was consumed in most copious quantities by the poor. Children went hungry and ragged while their fathers' pay checks brought millions to pseudo-philanthropists like Brewer Busch.

Only a visionary dreamer or an unscrupulous demagogue will say that the necessary dimes for beer will come out of funds hoarded up for such an emergency. Our economists no longer cheer us with the illusion that we are merely in a prolonged buyers' strike, that prosperity is just around the corner. We admit that we are in the worst depression of our history; that progress upward will be slow and uncertain.

Thousands of people in all walks of life have used up their financial savings and face the necessity of rigid economies. Thousands more are unable to pay their bills. Multitudes are hungry. If they are tempted to indulge in beer and drown their troubles in frothy cheer, then legitimate business must suffer. Dimes spent on beer cannot go to grocers and merchants. The wheels of industry will move slower and slower. More men will be laid off as markets for manufactured goods are weakened.

Business can ill afford to permit the restoration of an industry that pays only \$80,000,000 in wages and withdraws from the ordinary markets one-half billion dollars. In times of prosperity a waste luxury like beer might be permitted, but certainly not in these trying days when the buying power of the dollar must be scrutinized carefully. As a stimulus to business recovery the restoration of beer would be a pathetic handicap.

### Balancing the Budget by Beer

One other argument for beer is lustily proclaimed by the beer bewitched economists. It is the plea that a tax on beer will be a boom to the United States Treasury, wiping out the worst deficit in peace time history. That deficit is variously estimated. Perhaps two billions is a conservative figure. At least one million was the result of the American Legion's raid on Congress. But why worry about that? "We want beer" shout the Legion boys. Let beer pay the bill.

Hoover and Mellon tell us taxes must be increased and new forms of revenue provided. What could be simpler than to legalize beer and put a heavy tax upon it. Let the thirsty pay and the righteous God-fearing people rejoice in their sobriety and wisdom. It is an argument with an irresistible appeal to a tax-weary public. It is a splendid vote-getting slogan and grips the unthinking.

But what are the facts? Can this argument withstand the test of a

little investigation? We pass by in silence the valid objection that the government has no moral right to debauch its citizens for economic gain. That revenues produced by a tax on beer are spent many times over in repairing the wreckage caused by booze. Can a tax on beer produce an appreciable revenue?

During the decade preceding the 18th amendment, the highest return to the government from a tax on beer was \$126,000,000. That was in 1918 and was the result of war-inflated taxation. The normal return before the war in 1914 was only \$67,000,000. Approximately one-half. We take the maximum figure in order to be as generous as possible. Now \$126,000,000 is a large sum. More than you and I will ever handle unless perchance we work in the Mellon Bank. Yet that 126 millions is small compared with a 2000 million deficit.

### A Prolonged Spree

Restore beer. Re-enact the excessive war-inflated tax on beer. The American people would be compelled to drink 15 times as much beer as before if the budget were to be balanced by that method. I fear that 15 times as much beer as was consumed in 1918 would give even the beer and light wine boys a severe headache and perhaps impair their productive capacity during that prolonged spree. We admire their capacity for punishment, though we scorn their judgment.

But who would pay this heavy tax? Would it come from the surplus of those most able to pay? As usual, it would be paid by the ultimate consumer. And the ultimate consumer of beer is the working man, the one least able to pay in the present emergency. I personally prefer Mellon's suggestion to increase the tax on incomes. A tax on beer will bring but a small revenue. As a means of balancing the budget it is a farce and every governmental official knows it to be a farce. Balancing the budget by beer is akin to Canute's folly of sweeping back the tides of the sea with a broom.

Which brings us to the conclusion of the whole matter. Beer's promised prosperity is only a delusion. We cannot float back to boom times by riding upon the waves of intoxicating beverages. The attempt only leads to a watery, foul-smelling grave. The wets had better think of some more effectual defense of their favorite drink. Beer and prosperity! Impossible.